



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Great Lakes Agency
916 West Lakeshore Drive
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806



IN REPLY REFER TO:
Natural Resources

February 18, 2015

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Introduction: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in conjunction with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians is proposing to provide and utilize federal assistance to facilitate a road construction project in Emmet County, MI. A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared and is available for public review and comments in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Brief Description of Proposed Federal Action/Undertaking: The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Roads, Midwest Region, in conjunction with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, is proposing to provide and utilize federal assistance for a road construction project, identified as the McDougal Extension Project. The proposed project consists of the extension of McDougal Rd, North past Atkins road to Northmen Dr., located on the campus of Petoskey High and Middle School (T34/R5W/Sec 4). The new road extension will consist of approx. 1,440 lf of new curbed asphalt roadway located in a minimum 66' wide ROW deeded to the Emmet County Road Commission. Utilities were installed in an open cut excavation approximately 5 years ago as part of a campus improvement project with depths ranging from 10' to 15' below existing grade within the proposed right-of-way (ROW). The range in depth was in anticipation of the grading required for future roadway proposed as part of this project.

Environmental Review: In compliance with provisions of the NEPA, an environmental assessment (EA) and FONSI have been prepared. Based on the EA, information provided by project personnel, and overall NEPA review, no effects to historic properties, Federally-listed threatened and endangered species, water resources including wetlands, or any other federally regulated resources are anticipated. If any adverse impacts to, or inadvertent discoveries of, historic/cultural resources, Federally-listed species, and/or any other regulated resources are made, the project shall be suspended and the Tribe and the BIA promptly notified. Project operations are expected to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, permits, permissions, stipulations and best management practices. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations may apply if the proposed project disturbs of 1 acre of earth. Additionally, this project may take some land out of crop production but will improve transportation within the City of Petoskey. The Natural Resource Conservation Service and/or the County may need to be notified, as the area is considered prime farmland. If these conditions are met, the proposed project as described in the preferred alternative would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be required.

Document Availability and Comments: Interested parties can obtain copies the FONSI and related NEPA documents from the above address in care of the Branch of Natural Resources. Comments regarding the proposed project may also be presented within 7 days of the above date. Contact Fred Vande Venter, Environmental Protection Specialist, BIA, Great Lakes Agency, at (715) 682-4527 x309, with any questions, requests, or comments regarding this matter.